

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 099067

15

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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PAGE 02 STATE 099067

E. O. 11652

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MAY 23 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. WSJ OTTAWA REPORTS SHARP IN INTERVIEW SAYS ICCS ISN' T WORKING AND CANADA' S WITHDRAWAL WOULDN' T MEAN END OF VN AGREEMENT. SHARP SAYS ONE OF REASONS FOR ICCS' UNWORKABILITY IS PUBLIC ASSERTIONS BY POLGARIANS THEY WON' T FILE REPORTS FINDING VC AND PRG GUILTY OF C- F VIOLATIONS AND THEIR VIEW ICCS IS INTERMEDIARY RATHER THAN INVESTIGATORY BODY. ASKED IF CANADA WOULD ENCOURAGE ANY OTHER NATION TO JOIN ICCS, SHARP REPLIED, " NO. FORTUNATELY WE WON' T BE ASKED, EITHER." WSJ BELIEVES CANADA WILL ANNOUNCE WITHDRAWAL FROM ICCS THIS WEEK.

2. ALL PAPERS FEATURE THACH' S ASSERTION " WE CAN' T SAY THAT YET" ABOUT HAK' S " SOME PROGRESS" REFERENCE YESTERDAY, AND REPORT SULLIVAN' S QUICK DEPARTURE FOR SAIGON ASSUMED- LY TO SEEK THEIU' S APPROVAL ON POINTS HAK AND THO MAY HAVE AGREED UPON. NYT PARIS REPORTS THEY HAVE NOT YET REACHED AGREEMENT ON DETAILS, SO ARE SEEKING AGREEMENT ON PHRASES DESIGNED COVER FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENT.

POST' S RANDAL REPORTS SULLIVAN GOING TO SAIGON " AMID INDICATIONS THAT PROBLEMS REQUIRING CONCESSIONS" FROM THIEU HAVE ARISEN IN TALKS. RANDAL SUGGESTS THAT THIEU

CONCESSIONS ON VN C- F COULD PERSUADE HANOI EXERT PRESSURE IN CAMBODIA FOR C- F THERE.

3. FANK, WITH STRONG USAF SUPPORT, FIGHTS TO REGAIN CONTROL OF SIX- MILE STRETCH OF ROUTE 4, AND FIGHTING BREAKS OUT ALONG ROUTE 5 NORTH OF PP (NYT). MININFO SUM CHHUM SAYS LON NOL HAS NO PLANS TO LEAVE COUNTRY FOR MEDICAL REASONS (WP).

4. SFRC VOTES 13-3 TO CUT FOREIGN AID AND TRANSFER ALL MILITARY AID TO DOS WITH VIEW TO PHASING IT OUT OVER NEXT FEW YEARS. WHETHER ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 099067

WILL SURRENDER JURISDICTION REMAINS BE SEEN, ACCORDING POST' S RICH. SFRC AGREES LIMIT ALL FURTHER FUNDING FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO LAOS AND SVN TO ONE- FOR- ONE REPLACEMENT BASIS AS CALLED FOR IN VN AGREEMENT. COMMITTEE CUTS PROPOSED \$1.3 BILLION MILITARY AID FIGURE TO \$740 MILLION IN WHICH CAMBODIA WOULD GET \$150 MILLION. COMMITTEE ALSO VOTES TO BAR US TRAINING

OF FOREIGN POLICE FORCES.

5. BILL LIMITING PRESIDENT' S POWER TO WAGE UNDECLARED WAR SURVIVES HFAC TEST VOTE AND APPEARS HEADING TOWARD FINAL APPROVAL NEXT WEEK.

6. GVN THREATENS TRY BAR ICCS INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES OF US BOMBING OF SVN UNTIL ICCS FIRST ACTS ON CHARGES OF COMMUNIST C- F VIOLATIONS MADE TWO MONTHS AGO (NYDN). GVN TRUCE IMPLEMENTATION PROPOSAL REJECTED BY VC (NYT, SUN, WP).

7. FRIEDHEIM INDICATES DOD DOES NOT WANT U. S. REPORTERS MAKING REGULAR VISITS TO THAI AIR BASES WHERE U. S. AIRMEN ARE STATIONED. GENERALLY IN PAST, PENTAGON HAD EXPLAINED THAT NEWSMEN' S EXCLUSION FROM BASES WAS THAIS' BUSINESS (UPI, NYT).

8. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAY JAPAN HAS DECIDED TO EXTEND AID TO NVN ON PURELY BILATERAL BASIS (SUN).

9. FROM SAIGON, LAT' S LESLIE (MAY 22) CITES REPORTS BY US ADVISORS ROBERT SCHWAB AND LAMAR PROSSER OF CONTINUING VIETNAMESE ENCROACHMENT ON MONTAGNARD LANDS. ETHNIC MINORITIES MINISTER ESTIMATES THAT SINCE 1954 VIETNAMESE HAVE APPROPRIATED AT LEAST 8,000 ACRES OF MONTAGNARD LAND. THIS HAS GONE ON DESPITE INTERFERENCE BY AMERICANS WHO, NAY LUETT SAID, HAVE OFTEN SIDED WITH MONTAGNARDS. ENCROACHMENTS

OFTEN TAKE PLACE WHEN MONTAGNARDS ARE FORCED OFF THEIR TRADITIONAL LAND AND INTO RESETTLEMENT AREAS FOR SECURITY REASONS. MONTAGNARDS ALSO RECEIVE LOW QUALITY GOVERNMENT HEALTH SERVICES.

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PAGE 04 STATE 099067

10. LESLIE (MAY 20), IN PP, INSPECTS DESTRUCTION ALONG HIGHWAY 30 AND PARALLELING BASSAC RIVERBANK WHICH KIS OCCUPIED FOR ALMOST MONTH. ONLY THINGS THAT WITHSTOOD MONTH OF COMBAT BETWEEN FANK AND KIS ARE CONCRETE PILLARS ON WHICH HOUSES STOOD, AND CONCRETE STEPS LEADING TO THEM. LEADING ELEMENTS OF KIS NEARLY GOT TO TAKHMAU BEFORE BEING TURNED BACK, AND SLOWLY RETREATED. SAYS CLOSE INSPECTION OF MILES OF DESTRUCTION DO NOT SUBSTANTIATE CHARGE THAT AMERICAN BOMBING, WHICH REPORTEDLY SAVED DAY FOR FANK, CAUSED CIVILIAN CASUALTIES; COUNTED ONLY EIGHT BOMB CRATERS IN POPULATED AREAS ALONG ROAD. NEWSWEEK' S ELIZABETH BECKER ACCOMPANIED HIM ON INSPECTION.

11. WP' S MCCARDLE REPORTS COMMENT ON WATERGATE BY LEE EDWARDS, SECRETARY OF COMMITTEE FOR FREE CHINA WHO JUST RETURNED FROM ASIAN TRIP AND ATTENDED HILL RECEPTION FOR COMMITTEE. EDWARDS SAID SAIGON OFFICIALS ARE AFRAID THAT IF WATERGATE AFFAIR GETS TOO BAD, PRESIDENT MAY LOSE HIS INFLUENCE IN GETTING FOREIGN AID FROM CONGRESS.

12. STAN CARTER (NYDN) FINDS DIPLOMATS AND ADMIN LOBBYISTS PESSIMISTIC THAT PRESIDENT WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE HIS TOUGH, CARROT- AND- STICK POLICY TO FORCE NVN COMPLIANCE WITH C- F TERMS. ADMIN OFFICIALS PRIVATELY ADMIT THAT DIMINISHED WILLINGNESS OF CONGRESSMEN TO FOLLOW PRESIDENTIAL LEAD IS AT LEAST PARTIALLY RELATED TO SCANDAL. IF HAK SALVAGES SHAKY C- F, WILL BE ONE OF HISTORY' S SUPREME FEATS OF STATES- MANSHIP. UNLIKE RUSSIANS, N. VIETNAMESE HAVE BEEN CHORTLING OVER WATERGATE, OBVIOUSLY BELIEVING SCANDAL HAS SEVERELY LIMITED NIXON' S ABILITY TO USE STICK AGAINST THEM. RUSH

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